

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (previously presented) A tool carrier configured for resting on the top of a step ladder, the tool carrier comprising:

a) a generally rectangular top panel;

b) a skirt having planar front and back panels and trapezoidal side panels extending downwardly from respective portions of the top panel, the edge portions of the adjacent panels being interconnected with one another, the front, back and side panels having lower edges at equal distance below the top panel for supporting the tool carrier in an upright position on a horizontal surface;

c) a handle connected into position above the top panel; and

d) a plurality of tool-receiving pockets connected to the skirt.

Claim 2. (original) The tool carrier as defined in claim 1 in which the lower edges of said front, back and side panels extend continuously between adjacent interconnected panels to define a continuous, generally rectangular lower skirt perimeter at said constant distance from the top panel.

Claim 3. (previously presented) The tool carrier as defined in claim 1 further comprising elastic members interconnecting all adjacent edges of the panels for resilient expansion and contraction therebetween.

Claim 4. (previously presented) The tool carrier as defined in claim 1 further comprising a frame structure connected to at least one of said top panel and an upper portion of said skirt to assist in supporting the tool carrier in an upright position on a horizontal surface.

Claim 5. (original) The tool carrier as defined in claim 4 in which said frame structure includes one of (i) front and back frame members, and (ii) side frame members, connected to associated ones of said panels.

Claim 6. (previously presented) A tool carrier configured for resting on the top of a step ladder, the tool carrier comprising:

- a) a generally rectangular top panel;
- b) a semi-rigid skirt depending downwardly from the of the top panel, and having front, back and side panels cooperative to define a lower perimeter for supporting the tool carrier in an upright position on a horizontal surface;
- c) elastic members interconnecting all adjacent edges of the panels such that the panels are moveable in relation to one another for resilient expansion and contraction of the skirt; and
- d) a plurality of tool-receiving pockets connected to the skirt.

Claim 7. (original) The tool carrier as defined in claim 6 further comprising a handle connected into position above the top panel.

Claim 8. (previously presented) The tool carrier as defined in claim 6 further comprising a frame structure connected to at least one of said top panel and an upper portion of said skirt to assist in supporting the tool carrier in an upright position on a horizontal surface.

Claim 9. (original) The tool carrier as defined in claim 8 in which said frame structure includes one of (i) front and back frame members and (ii) side frame members, connected to associated ones of said panels.

Claim 10. (previously presented) A tool carrier configured for positioning on the top of a step ladder, the tool carrier comprising:

- a) a generally rectangular top panel,
- b) a skirt depending downwardly from the top panel, the skirt having planar front and back panels and trapezoidal side panels extending downwardly from respective portions of the top panel, adjacent edge portions of the panels being interconnected with one another;
- c) a frame structure connected to at least one of the top panel and the upper portion of the skirt, and having a lower perimeter for supporting the tool carrier in an upright position on a horizontal surface, and
- d) a plurality of tool-receiving pockets connected to the skirt.

Claim 11. (original) The tool carrier as defined in claim 10 further comprising a handle connected into position above the top panel.

Claim 12. (previously presented) The tool carrier as defined in claim 10 in which said frame structure includes one of (i) front and back frame members and (ii) side frame members, connected to associated ones of said panels.

Claim 13. (original) The tool carrier as defined in claim 12 in which said frame structure includes top, front, back and side frame members connected to associated ones of said panels.

Claim 14. (previously presented) The tool carrier as defined in claim 12 further comprising elastic members interconnecting adjacent ones of one of (i) said frame members and (ii) said panels such that the frame members and associated panels are moveable together and in relation to adjacent ones of said frame members and associated panels for expansion and contraction of the skirt.

Claim 15. (original) The tool carrier as defined in claim 14 further comprising folded material portions connected between adjacent panels.

Claim 16. (currently amended) An accessory tool holder for use with a tool carrier having a top horizontal panel to position sized for positioning on the top step of a step ladder, a skirt depending downwardly from the top panel and sized to surround the upper portion of the step ladder, and a pair of generally vertical, elongated adjacent pockets having outer and inner side edges connected in fixed relation to the skirt, and having pocket fronts spaced from the skirt and extending between associated side edges of the pockets, snugly fitted to the skirt, the accessory tool holder comprising:

a) a body having (i) an open top with an upper surface, (ii) a bottom and (iii) a generally vertically extending tubular cross-section therebetween to establish an upwardly opening cavity for receiving a tool therein, and having a generally upwardly facing surface for supporting the tool in said cavity; and

b) a pair of generally vertical, elongated legs each having an upper portion and a bottom and an elongated center portion extending therebetween, the upper portions of the legs being connected to said body, the bottoms of the legs establishing free ends, said free ends and said center portions being spaced outwardly in a first direction from said body and characterized with an absence of structure therebetween to establish a first downwardly opening slot extending upwardly therebetween when viewed from a side direction orthogonal to said first direction, said free ends and said center portions further having inside sides facing one another and spaced from one another and characterized with an absence of structure therebetween to establish a second downwardly opening slot extending upwardly therebetween when viewed from said first direction, whereby said legs are slipped into said pockets with said pocket fronts positioned in said first slot between said legs and said body and with the inside edges of said pockets positioned in said second slot between said legs, being spaced from one another to define a

downwardly opening slot therebetween for slipping said legs into said pair of snugly fitted pockets in the tool carrier.

Claim 17. (canceled).

Claim 18. (previously presented) The tool holder as defined in claim 16 in which said upwardly facing surface is the upper surface of the body.

Claim 19. (previously presented) The tool holder as defined in claim 16 in which said the bottom of the body establishes said upwardly facing surface.